



Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center

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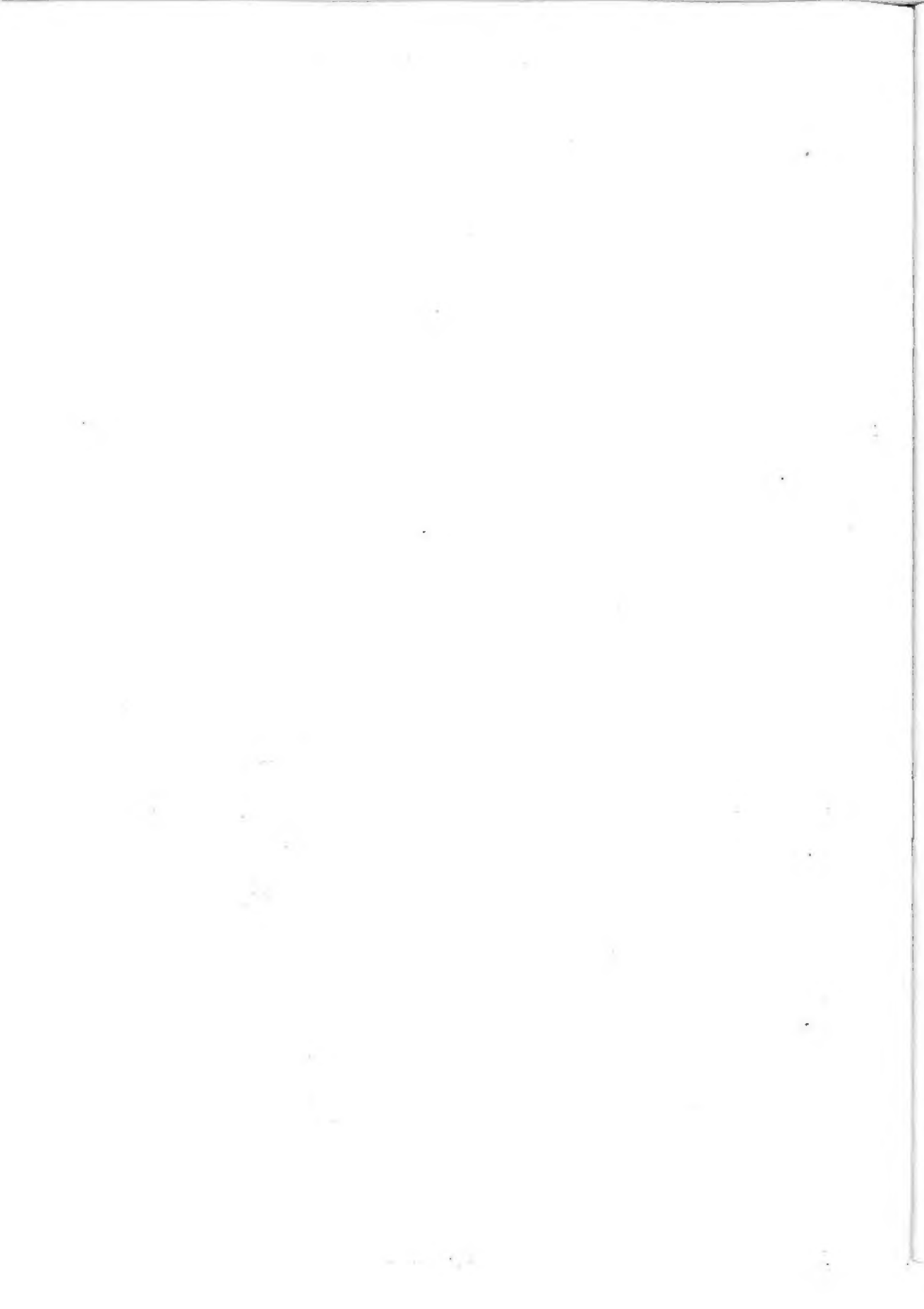
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The inhabitants of Nepal call structures like this one at the entrance to the village of Do in Dolpo "portal-chortens." The relics of important lamas are generally housed in them. Scenes like this greeted the many expeditions carried out by the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project during the thirty years of its operation.

The Nepal Research Centre



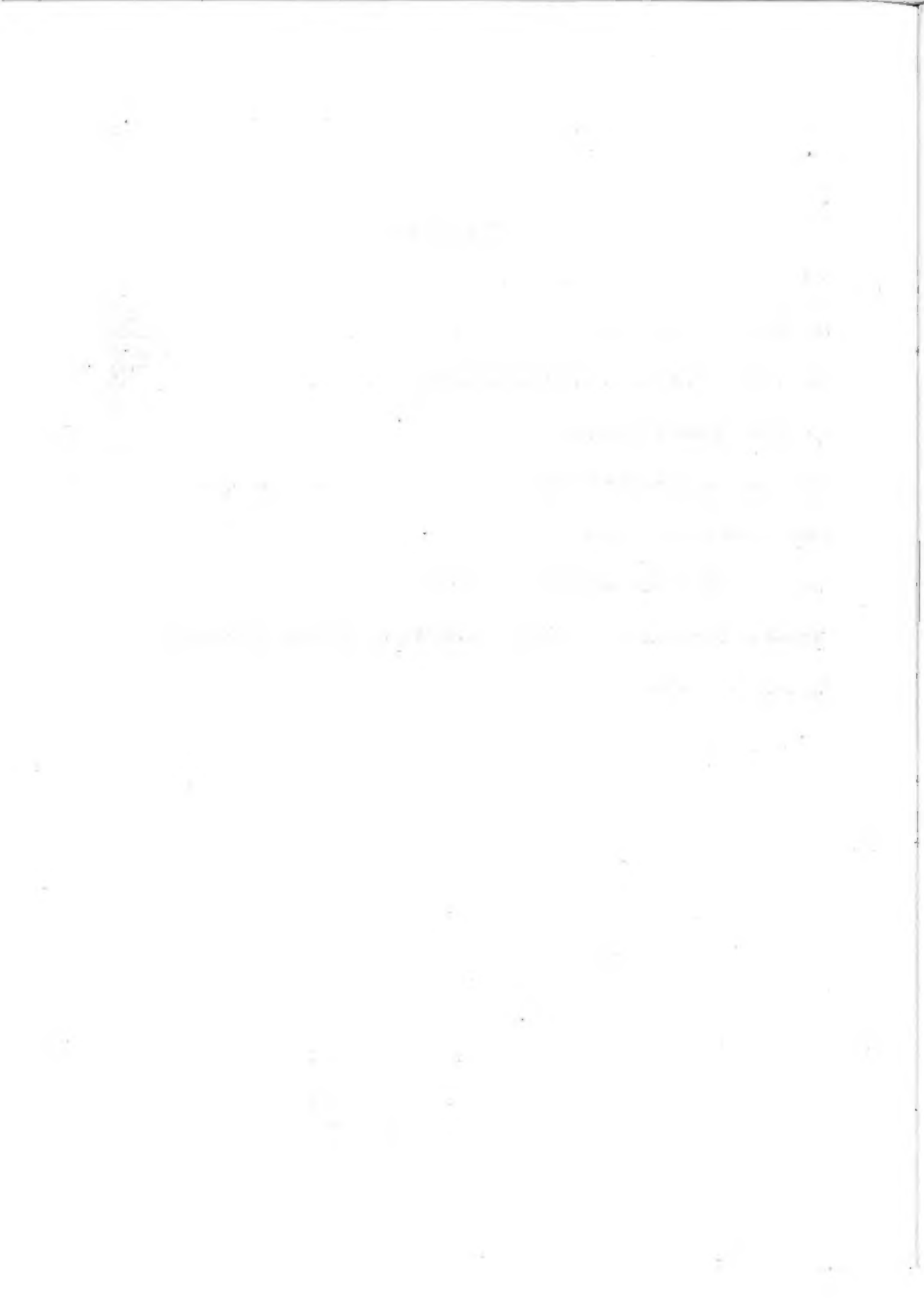


**The Nepal Research Centre
An Updated Report
on its Activities
(1960 - 2001)**

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FOREWORD

With the arrival of a new millennium I thought it appropriate to update the latest brochure on the activities of the Nepal Research Centre (NRC), which I compiled in 1997 on the basis of a similar booklet (*Scientific Projects and Himalayan Culture (1960-1992)*) brought out by my predecessor, Dr. Franz-Karl Ehrhard. Parts of this very useful survey will be again incorporated verbatim, the events up to 1992 having been accurately and elegantly formulated by those who have gone before me.* One might have reprinted the old booklet to submit together with my report — and I thought of doing just that — but for the sake of clarity the events of the past five years have been made part of a running account and included in chapters and subdivisions of their own.

When I took over directorship of the Nepal Research Centre and the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP) in the fall of 1993, the perspective was not very promising: I was expected to run the NGMPP for only two more years and then terminate it, after which time the main financial support for our institution would have been withdrawn. Enhanced opportunities in remote and difficult areas of northern Nepal, however, soon showed the necessity of extending the NGMPP for another five years: the manuscripts microfilmed in these areas proved to be overwhelming in terms of both quantity and quality. Now that the time has come to conclude one of the longest and most successful projects of the German Research Council, I can say that all the project's objectives of the last phase have been met. We managed to systematically preserve on microfilm the huge amount of literature in the various remote areas in the north of Nepal.

Even for a non-specialist it should be easy to understand that the cataloguing during high mountain expeditions under harsh conditions and extreme time constraints was very preliminary in nature. For a long time now a new Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project has been under consideration. The head of the NGMPP, the German Indologist Prof. Dr. Albrecht Wezler, has negotiated a new agreement and obtained the approval from the German counterpart, the University of Hamburg and its Asia-Africa Institute. The formal approval of His Majesty's Government is awaited, and hopefully it will be only a matter of time before the two parties sign the new agreement.

* See F.-K. EHRHARD: *Scientific Projects and Himalayan Culture (1960-1992)*, which report in turn is mainly based on W. HELLMICH: *Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya. Nepal Research Centre, Report 1971*, M. WITZEL: *Nepal Research Centre. Development, Results and Prospects: 1960-1975*, A. MICHAELS & L. V.D. KUIJP: *Nepal Research Centre. Development, Results and Prospects: 1960-1982* and R. GRÜNENDAHL & C. CÜPPERS: *Nepal Research Centre 1960-1987. An Updated Report*.

The fruitful cooperation between the Central Library of Tribhuvan University (TU) and the Nepal Research Centre continues as ever. Last year further collaboration between TU and the NRC was established: since February 2000 I have been teaching two classes a week to support Prof. Nareshman Vajracarya's newly founded Post-Graduate Course in Buddhist Studies within the Cultural Department.

My particular thanks go to the German Embassy and the German Foreign Office, which has helped our project in recent years by financially contributing towards furnishing the microfilm building of the National Archives in Kathmandu with an adequate number of microfilm steel cabinets, dehumidifiers and air conditioners, and towards installing a large and powerful generator. The National Archives of Nepal is now storing in a professional way what has become the world's largest collection of South Asian microfilms of its kind.

I am very much indebted to the officials of His Majesty's Government, whose ready assistance has benefited the Nepal Research Centre and the work of the scholars associated with it in many ways. Particularly I wish to express my gratitude to the National Archives and the Centre for International Relations of Tribhuvan University for their continual cooperation. Thanks are also due to Tribhuvan University Central Library for their part in the joint compiling of the Nepalese National Bibliography.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to G.B. Kalikote, the ever loyal and resourceful manager of the NRC, P. Pierce, its exemplary translator, Gurushekar Sharma, Aishvaryadhar Sharma, Ishwar Lal Singh, Diwakar Acharya and Pema Jigme, top-rate research scholars, Navraj Gurung, librarian, photographer and man of many skills, Raju Thapa, photographer, and the rest of the staff who have made the Nepal Research Centre the success it is.

Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes

Kathmandu, February 2001

THE NEPAL RESEARCH CENTRE

History

The Nepal Research Centre (NRC) is the oldest German cooperative institution on Nepalese soil; as a consequence, it has had a long and varied history of development.

The Centre's earliest beginnings can be traced back to the so-called Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya. The establishment of the Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya coincided with, and was indeed the result of, the plan to commemorate the centenary year, in 1959, of the death of Alexander von Humboldt, the famous nineteenth-century German traveller, geographer and pioneer of high-mountain research — a distinguished humanist and naturalist. To this end, German scientists conceived a plan to undertake a comprehensive study of the Himalayan regions of eastern Nepal, from the lowlands of the Terai to the world's highest mountain peaks.

The Research Scheme, under whose auspices this was undertaken, was in fact a continuation of three earlier German expeditions, the Altai Pamir expedition of 1928, the Nanga Parbat expedition of 1934 and the Karakorum expedition of 1954. All of these had been financed by the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG, formerly known as Notgemeinschaft Deutscher Wissenschaft), an independent and administratively autonomous foundation with advisors elected by German scientists.

Through the good offices of Dr. Toni Hagen, then in the service of His Majesty's Government, the Research Scheme obtained permission from HMG to execute its research proposals under the directorship of the late Prof. Dr. Walter Hellmich, the then director of the State Zoological Collection in Munich.

The funds for the Research Scheme were initially provided by several West German government ministries, after which the overall financing was taken over by the private Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

From 1960 to 1965, some six large-scale expeditions were sent to the relevant areas. This resulted in the well-known Khumbu Himal Series of publications.

When the Research Scheme came to an end in 1965, it was thought, at that time, that to bring an abrupt halt to the momentum gained through the Scheme would be ill-advised. This consideration led to the plan to create a solid base in Nepal, from which scientists could carry out their research projects. In February of 1965, this plan found ready acceptance by the first ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Nepal, Dr. Wilhelm Lör, and when His Late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva graciously granted the late Prof. Dr. Hellmich an audience to discuss this new concept, it met with His Late Majesty's immediate approval.

As early as October of the same year, the so-called Thyssen House, a forerunner of the NRC, was established in Chauni, Kathmandu. As its name suggests, it was financially supported by the Thyssen Foundation. The official opening ceremony of the House was held on November 17, 1965, and was graced by the presence of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva who, at that time, was the crown prince of Nepal. The Thyssen House soon became what it was envisaged to become: a meeting place and home base for scholars from all fields of the sciences and humanities. Numerous scholars, not only from German-speaking countries, visited and stayed at the Thyssen House during its period of operation. The visits of Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Voigt, then general secretary of the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft, DMG), Prof. Dr. Klaus Ludwig Janert, University of Cologne, and Prof. Dr. Heimo Rau, director of the Goethe Institute in Kathmandu (1975-1982) and professor for South Asian art at the University of Heidelberg, had far-reaching consequences, for, as will be shown below, their visits led to several large-scale projects aimed at the preservation of the unique cultural heritage of Nepal.

After a series of negotiations, the Thyssen House was put on firm legal footing as a result of the conclusion of an agreement, in late 1967, between His Majesty's Government and the Federal Republic of Germany. This agreement constituted the *de facto* foundation of the NRC. It also provided for the establishment of a more or less permanent institution (equipped with a library, laboratory and other facilities) to facilitate the exchange of ideas and research between Nepalese and German scholars.

Under the auspices of the NRC, a large number of projects have been undertaken over the past twenty-five years. Perhaps the most important of these have been the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP) and the Nepal Research Programme (NRP), whose achievements will be outlined below, and the restoration of the Pujarimath in Bhaktapur, which was badly damaged during the earthquake in 1934. On the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's wedding in 1970, the Federal Republic of Germany made available the amount of DM 100,000 towards the latter restoration project, which was directed by Prof. Dr. Rau. The Pujarimath restoration project proved to be a forerunner of the much larger bilateral agreement for the Bhaktapur Development Project, which was started in the same quarter of Bhaktapur in which the Pujarimath is located. In 1979, during the visit of the then minister of state in the foreign office of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Hamm Brücher, a verbal agreement was reached to construct a microfilm storage building. In 1984 the German Foreign Office indicated its willingness to make available the amount of DM 150,000 for the construction. Building finally got under way in 1991, so that the microfilm house could be inaugurated and duly handed over to the Department of Archaeology in August 1992. In addition, the German Foreign Office contributed in 1994 the sum of DM 10,000, and in 1996 the sum of DM 16,600, towards furnishing the building with thirty microfilm cabinets, two dehumidifiers and three air conditioners. The funds were also used to provide a powerful generator, which has been set up in a newly erected generator house. The fact that the costs of this generator house were met by HMG shows the genuine interest of our Nepalese counterpart in preserving Nepal's script heritage.

In 1991 a new programme called Tibet-Himalaya, sponsored by the German Research Council, was initiated. A part of its activities under the name Nepal-German Project on High-Mountain Archaeology, centred on the Mustang region, but it had also a wider interest in the natural and cultural history of the whole region of the western Himalayas.

Aside from these large-scale projects, a number of smaller but no less significant projects were also undertaken by scholars associated with the NRC (see "Scholars and their Research Fields").

The financing of the NRC by the Thyssen Foundation terminated in 1972, and resources had to be sought elsewhere. In that year, the Ministry for Research of the Federal Republic of Germany agreed to bear the costs of the NRC, but only on a short-term basis. At that time, the management of the NRC was also changed, and after a brief period of joint management by three different and independent institutions, namely, the Society for Comparative Alpine Research, the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg, and the German Oriental Society, it was decided that the latter would continue to look after the interests of the NRC. This was all the more appropriate since the German Oriental Society had, from 1970 on, been involved in a large-scale project in Nepal — the NGMPP.

When the Society took over direct management and financing of the NRC in 1972, Prof. Dr. Hellmich stayed on as its director until 1974; his duties were taken over by the general secretary of the German Oriental Society, Dr. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Voigt, up to 1982. The post of director-general of the NRC and NGMPP was then assumed by Prof. Dr. Albrecht Wezler. He nominated a series of resident representatives (later to be called directors). The present director, Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes (Indo-Tibetan studies), has been in charge of the project in Kathmandu since October 1993.

After the Society assumed responsibility for the financial support of the NRC, a new assessment of its needs and problems was made. In doing so, the German Oriental Society tried to incorporate the various wishes brought forward by Nepalese scholars and officials of His Majesty's Government regarding desirable changes in the NRC.

In consideration of the proposals made by its Nepalese counterparts, the NRC has, for instance, established its own series: Publications of the Nepal Research Centre. This series has made possible the much wider dissemination of information on its own activities in Nepal and those researchers associated with it. Among other things, the NRC also initiated or sponsored several conferences, among them:

"The Management of Mountain Ecosystems", whose results were published in the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, vol. 2/3 (1978/79)

"The First Symposium on Nepali and German Sanskritists", whose results were published in its *Proceedings*, Dang/Kathmandu 1980.

"The Seminar on Promotion, Affiliation and Coordination of Foreign Researchers in Tribhuvan University", whose results were published in its *Report*, Kirtipur 1989.

From 1977 until 1999, the NRC operated under five-year agreements with the Research Division of Tribhuvan University, and since the past two years under a similar relationship with the newly established Centre for International Relations. It has led to many scientific and personal links between Nepalese and German researchers. Given its truly broad range of activities, it would not be unfair to suggest that the NRC has played a quite significant role in developing an awareness of Nepal's rich cultural heritage both here in Nepal and abroad.

Present Activities

Any scholar or scientist who comes to Nepal to do research is required to apply for a permit at the Centre for International Relations of Tribhuvan University and is thus usually in need of some sort of assistance in contacting the necessary authorities as well as Nepalese colleagues in his field of interest. The NRC, on the basis of its agreement of cooperation with Tribhuvan University and its long liaison experience, is in an excellent position to assist in providing contacts between Nepalese and European scholars and researchers both in the humanities and in the social and natural sciences.

1. Assistance to scholars

The NRC provides assistance to scholars from any country in preparing and carrying out research on Nepal by supplying information and other help at different stages of a research project. More specifically, it is the duty of the NRC to help foreign scholars from Germany and other countries to plan their work here more efficiently and to gear their research, wherever possible, to the developmental needs of this country.

Since scholars are interested in exchanging ideas, the NRC helps to arrange contacts with Nepalese colleagues in their area of specialization, and should they require field assistants, it aids in finding prospective candidates. Language can be a problem, and the NRC also helps scholars in arranging for interpreters or translators, or for private instruction in Nepali and other indigenous languages relevant to their research. Equally important, it also supplies scholars with information on what is regarded as relevant to the developmental needs of the country, and on what the direction of current research by Nepalese scholars is.

2. Organization of lectures, seminars etc.

The question of trying to relate directly to the ongoing developmental concerns of its host nation is connected with the second major focus of the NRC, namely, the organization of lectures, seminars, and formal and informal discussions and get-togethers on a wide range

of topics. Since it is generally the case that German-speaking scientists and scholars tend to publish their research findings in the West, and the bulk of that often in the German language, it is our specific policy to encourage scholars to communicate their findings directly here in Nepal in the form of a publication or a public lecture, preferably in English. In fact, every scholar working under the auspices of the Centre is expected to make some sort of presentation locally. We see this as one small but significant way to help redress the imbalance in the accumulation and concentration of knowledge about the developing countries within research centres located primarily in the industrialized West.

3. Publications

One of the principal written channels for communicating such research is the series of NRC publications edited by the Centre. In response to the wishes of its Nepalese counterparts at Tribhuvan University and in the various ministries of His Majesty's Government, the NRC has undertaken to disseminate in Nepal the results obtained by the research not only of persons affiliated with it locally, but also of those scholars whose links with the NRC are of a more indirect nature. To this end, it sponsors the publication of a series of monographs, miscellaneous papers and the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre* (JNRC), the first number of which was published in 1977.

Furthermore, the NRC has contributed to the improvement of communication among scholars by publishing English translations of important articles written in German, French and Nepali. The *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre* is one of the few scholarly journals that is devoted virtually entirely to the study of Nepalese culture. Along with such other journals as *Contributions to Nepalese Studies* and *Kailash*, it has become a significant research tool for those involved in Nepalese studies (see in this regard the *Cumulative Index to Selected Nepalese Journals*, compiled by Purnā P. Amatya, Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), 1989).

The Nepal Research Centre Publications include monographs and bibliographies on Newar music, ethnobotany, Himalayan ethnography and other subjects (see *Appendix I*).

4. Provision of working facilities

The fourth major task of the NRC is the provision of work space, facilities and other assistance to the NGMPP. The NRC is directly linked with the NGMPP through its joint directorate, staff and location.

Among the facilities for visiting scholars and Nepalese researchers, the NRC maintains a library containing several thousand items relating chiefly to Nepal, most of which are in English or Nepali. In addition, the Centre has a small amount of technical equipment which is available for use. It also maintains a few guest rooms for the accommodation of visiting scholars.

THE NEPAL-GERMAN MANUSCRIPT PRESERVATION PROJECT

A principal task of the Nepal Research Centre, as mentioned in the previous section, was to house and support the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP). Likewise it will be the basis of the new Nepalese-German Manuscript Preservation Project in Kathmandu. The NGMPP was established in 1970 by an agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft, DMG). It was a joint venture between the National Archives under the Department of Archaeology, His Majesty's Government, and the German Oriental Society, and was designed to preserve on microfilm Nepal's extraordinary wealth of manuscripts and historical documents, thereby contributing considerably to the preservation of the country's cultural heritage and identity, as well as providing invaluable opportunities to explore virtually all aspects of its manifold literary, religious and historical traditions.

All equipment and materials necessary for the execution of the NGMPP were provided by the German Oriental Society with financial assistance from the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). On consultation with its Nepalese counterpart, the Society set up a photographic section in the National Archives. Run by experts and technicians provided by His Majesty's Government, it microfilmed the collections of the National Archives, and developed and copied all films of the Project, including those produced by a separate microfilming unit located at the Nepal Research Centre. According to the agreement, one positive copy of each film, together with the original negative, remained in the National Archives, while a second positive copy was handed over to the German Oriental Society for preservation in the Staatsbibliothek Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz, the former Prussian State Library.

During its first phase, from 1970 to 1975, the activities of the NGMPP were limited to the collections of the National Archives. The subsequent extension of the agreement provided for the inclusion of all public libraries and private manuscript collections within the Bagmati Zone. During 31 years more than 180,000 manuscripts with over five million folios were microfilmed in the whole of Nepal.

With the second extension of the agreement, the restriction to the Bagmati Zone was lifted. From 1982 onwards, the NGMPP undertook various exploratory tours and opened temporary microfilming stations in other parts of the kingdom. Up to February 1987, the Sanskrit section alone microfilmed 2,267 manuscripts with a total of 74,487 folios outside the Kathmandu Valley, namely, in Kaskikot (1982), Gorkha (1983), Janakpur (1984/85) and Rajbiraj (1986/87). It should be pointed out that, through these activities of the NGMPP, many texts have become available for the first time outside what may have been a very limited area of dissemination.

This wealth of manuscripts is not only distinguished by its exceptional range of diversity — nearly all subfields of Hindu and Buddhist Sanskrit literature are represented — but frequently also by the rarity and great antiquity of individual pieces. In many cases, the microfilmed manuscripts represent the oldest available source for a given text, and this holds true not just for the Buddhist Sanskrit texts, but also for many Vedic, Brahmanic and Hindu works which are extant elsewhere, if at all, only in later copies.

Manuscripts in the Tibetan language constituted the second major focus of the NGMPP's microfilming activities. This results from the fact that Buddhist literature in Tibetan is quite prevalent in the Himalayan regions of northern Nepal. The National Archives' remarkable collection of Tibetica provided the starting point for the NGMPP's activities in this field. These once under way, it was soon realized that the ever increasing number of Tibetan manuscripts necessitated the establishment of an additional Tibetological section, which was consequently set up in 1978.

Being also confined by agreement to the Bagmati Zone, most of the filming during the first period until 1982 was of Tibetica provided by monasteries in Svayambhunath and Bodhnath. From 1982 onwards, permission was granted to the NGMPP to extend its activities over the whole of Nepal, with the exception of certain restricted areas. This ban was lifted to a certain extent in 1991, when some of the former "restricted areas", such as Dolpo, opened up. Altogether 40 expeditions were undertaken to areas like Langthang, Helambu, Nubri, Mustang, Dolpo, Jumla, Solo-Khumbu and Taplejung. During these expeditions 10,817 manuscripts with altogether 588,096 folios were microfilmed, among them important biographies of lamas who were active in the Tibeto-Nepalese borderlands, text collections of rituals used in that region and historical documents.

List of expeditions conducted by the Tibetan section of the NGMPP:

Year	Expedition	Date	Reel - Nos.
1983	1. Langthang	15.4. - 11.5.	L 1 - L 24
	2. Helambu	15.11. - 28.11.	L 25 - L 40
1984	3. Jumla	5.5. - 7.6.	L 41 - L 61
	4. Jomosom	6.9. - 22.10.	L 62 - L 94
1986	5. Muktinath	26.3. - 4.6.	L 95 - L 105
	6. Jumla	1.10. - 28.11.	L 106 - L 123
1987	7. Muktinath	26.3. - 4.6.	L 124 - L 153
	8. Muktinath	12.10. - 19.10.	L 154 - L 161
1988	9. Tengpoche	29.4. - 13.5.	L 162 - L 185
	10. Jomosom	25.9. - 13.10.	L 186 - L 206
	11. Jumla	20.11. - 9.12.	L 207 - L 221
1989	12. Junbesi	30.4. - 21.5.	L 222 - L 251
	13. Jomosom	23.10. - 10.11.	L 252 - L 268
1990	14. Helambu	28.1. - 8.2.	L 269 - L 290
	15. Junbesi	23.10. - 9.11.	L 291 - L 321
1991	16. Kutang	10.4. - 6.5.	L 322 - L 346
	17. Muchu	4.7. - 1.8.	L 347 - L 375
1992	18. Nubri	9.4. - 8.5.	L 376 - L 400
	19. Dolpo	22.8. - 13.9.	L 401 - L 417
	20. Kodari	13.12. - 18.12.	L 418 - L 425
1993	21. Sambo	22.4. - 21.5.	L 426 - L 455
	22. Helambu	18.11. - 28.11.	L 456 - L 465
1994	23. Helambu	21.2. - 3.3.	L 466 - L 470
	24. Tsum	10.4. - 7.5.	L 471 - L 501
	25. Dolpo	19.7. - 25.8.	L 502 - L 552



The staff of the Nepal Research Centre



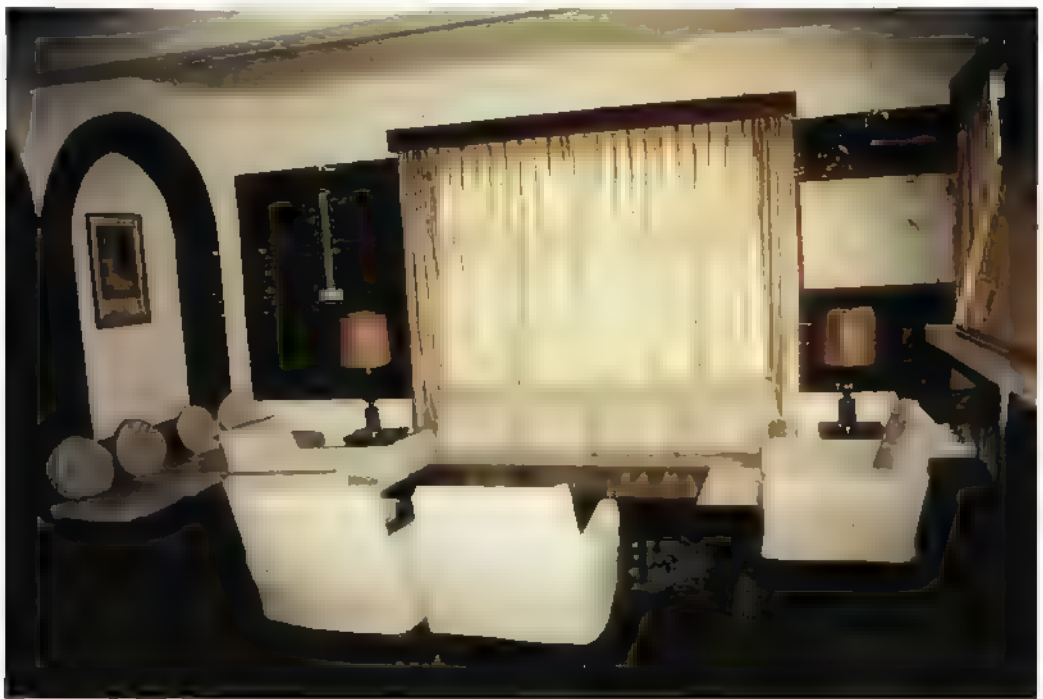
The NRC's watchman of many years' standing,
Dambar Bahadur Thapa



Navraj Gurung is responsible for running the NRC library.



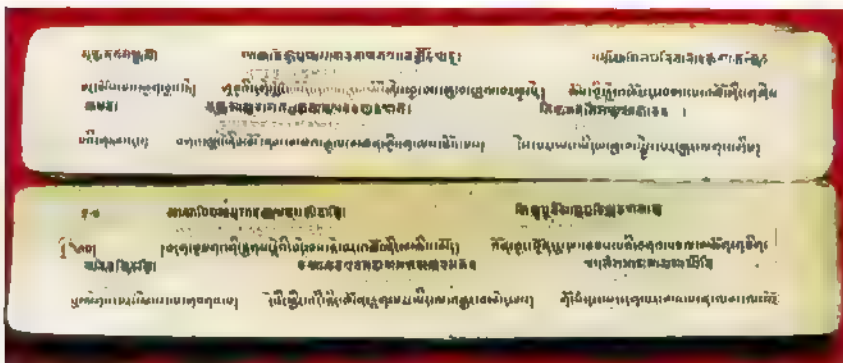
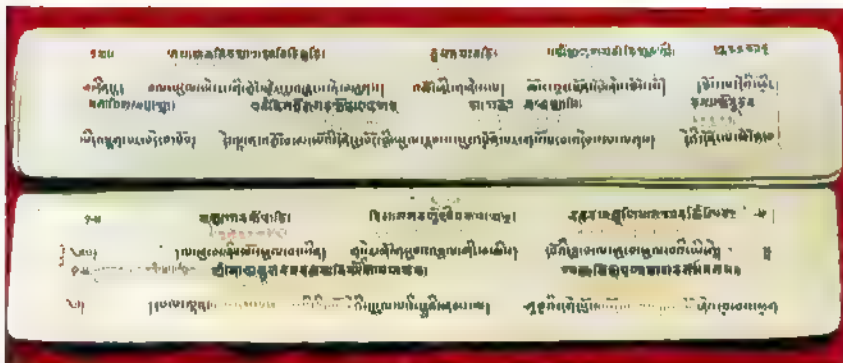
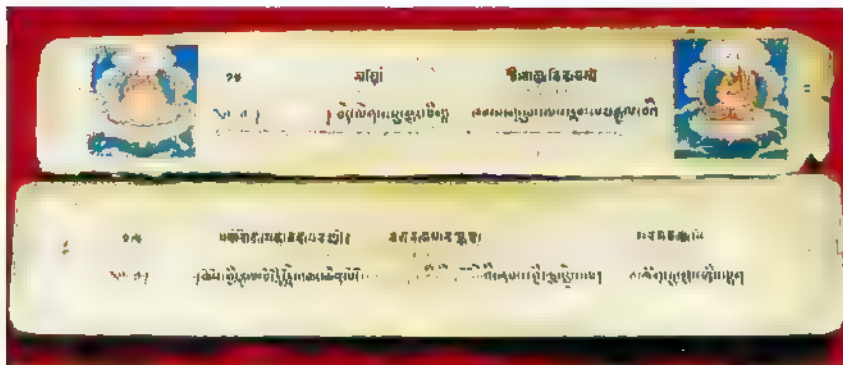
The library, containing the catalogue cards of the NGMPP, offers visitors a congenial atmosphere to read and do research.



The main reception area on the ground floor of NRC,
and the site of numerous public lectures



Lawa Khadka, a member of the service staff, in the NRC kitchen



Among the works of Tibetan spiritual leaders may often be found official documents written to teachers or disciples. The folios here date from the 15th century. The addressee of these letters is the Bengali scholar Vanaratna. Thanks to the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project, documents like this one are now on microfilm for future generations to benefit from.

Year	Expedition	Date	Reel - Nos.
1995	26. Langthang	26.3. - 6.4.	L 553 - L 564
	27. Taplejung	4.5. - 6.6.	L 565 - L 624
	28. Dolpo	26.6. - 29.8.	L 625 - L 684
1996	29. Dolpo	13.5. - 3.7.	L 685 - L 764
	30. Mustang	20.8. - 28.9.	L 765 - L 777
	31. Taplejung	30.10. - 6.12.	L 778 - L 837
1997	32. Dolpo	6.7. - 21.8.	L 838 - L 887
	33. Thame	29.10. - 15.11.	L 888 - L 918
1998	34. Nubri	4.5. - 6.6.	L 919 - L 963
	35. Phu Gaon	15.10. - 18.11.	L 964 - L 1013
1999	36. Manang	6.4. - 1.5.	L 1014 - L 1051
	37. Mugu / Dolpo	1.6. - 18.7.	L 1052 - L 1101
2000	38. Manang	24.4. - 19.5.	L 1102 - L 1151
	39. Dolpo	19.8. - 24.9.	L 1152 - L 1187
	40. Nubri	25.10. - 24.11.	L 1188 - L 1231

Places like Svayambhunath and Bodhnath, nevertheless, remained a constant source of manuscripts and documents worth preserving on microfilm, since old texts continued to be brought there from Tibet and other Himalayan countries.

Altogether, the Tibetological section of the NGMPP was able to supplement the collection of Tibetan block prints at the National Archives with microfilms of approximately 21,000 Tibetan manuscripts totalling over 1,200,000 folios. This includes the collection of Tibetan texts from Walungchung in East Nepal that was first brought to the National Museum (Chauni) and then shifted to the National Archives.

Thanks to the generous offer by the German Foreign Office mentioned earlier, a spacious microfilm building suitable for housing the huge collection of microfilms was built. After its completion, German Ambassador Dr. Martin Schneller officially handed over the building to HMG on August 11, 1992. At an official function, the Minister for Education and Culture Govinda Raj Joshi inaugurated the microfilm building. In addition, the German Foreign Office provided funds towards furnishing the building with an adequate number of microfilm steel cabinets, two dehumidifiers, three air conditioners and a large generator.

For the recent reports on the work of the NGMPP, see K.-D. MATHES: "Results of the Sixth Phase of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project and Future Prospects" in *Abhilekh*, No. 14 (1996), pp. 133-6; "Results of the Seventh Phase of the Nepal-German

Manuscript Preservation Project: Actual Achievements and Future Prospects" in *Abhilekh*, No. 17 (1999), pp. 143-7 and "The Nepal Research Centre" in *Look Nepal: A Special Issue on the Nepal-German Relations*, 1999, p. 32.

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, the NGMPP organized the exhibition *Mountains, Monasteries, Manuscripts* in the Bhanubhakta Hall of the Royal Nepal Academy from April 6 to 14, 2000. On 25 board displays the visitor was informed about the activities and achievements of the project, including how high mountain expeditions were prepared and conducted. The exhibition has found a permanent home in the microfilm building of the National Archives.

THE NEPAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

In view of the manifold and varied cultural traditions of Nepal, their great intrinsic value, and in view of the threat modernization poses to traditional cultures and their testimonials; again in view of the agreement between Tribhuvan University and the German Oriental Society which regulates the work of the Nepal Research Centre and thus offers suitable facilities for research, the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) in 1979 decided to include a research programme on Nepal among their priority programmes. This programme was sanctioned for a five-year period, which ran from 1980 to 1985; in 1984, the Research Council decided to grant a second five-year term, to run from 1986 to 1990.

The emphasis of this programme lay on the humanities since it was felt that in this field the study of Nepalese traditions had a great deal of materials to offer with hardly any parallels elsewhere on the subcontinent. From the very beginning, the Nepal Research Programme aimed at including as many fields from the scope of the humanities as could sensibly be accommodated within the given financial framework. Since some degree of cooperation between various disciplines had developed in the course of the first phase, the Research Council recommended a multidisciplinary approach for the second five-year term, with particular emphasis upon the problems of syncretism: it was decided to concentrate on Svayambhunath, which offered scope for a collaboration between specialists in various fields represented on the team.

In its administrative structure, the Nepal Research Programme consisted of individual projects under the sole academic responsibility of the director of each project, who on a year-to-year basis applied for a research grant and had to defend his plans and justify his performance. Over and above this, the Research Council appointed a coordinating speaker in order to facilitate planning and cooperation between the various projects, and to avoid duplication or overlapping. This task was admirably fulfilled by Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver from the University of Kiel.

Fields and Project Areas

Anthropology and Ethnology

Chantel (Dr. Anne de Sales, Paris)

Northern Magar (Dr. Michael Oppitz, Berlin)

Svayambhunath [(Prof. Dr. Ulla Johansen and) Dr. Erika Moser, Univ. of Cologne]

Tamang (Prof. Dr. Andreas Höfer, Univ. of Heidelberg)

Art and Architecture

Hindu and Buddhist Sacred Sites (Prof. Dr. Adalbert Gail, Univ. of Berlin; Prof. Dr. Heimo Rau, Univ. of Heidelberg)

Ghats (Prof. Dr. Heimo Rau, Univ. of Heidelberg)

Gorkha (Dr. Niels Gutschow, Univ. of Kiel; Surendra Joshi, Bhaktapur)

Kirtipur (Dr. Reinhard Herdick, Munich)

Nuwakot (Dr. Niels Gutschow, Univ. of Kiel; Surendra Joshi, Bhaktapur)

Svayambhunath (Dr. Saphalya Amatya, Kathmandu; Aruna Bose, Univ. of Kiel; Dr. Niels Gutschow, Univ. of Kiel; Surendra Joshi, Bhaktapur; Hemraj Sakya, Patan)

Buddhism

Contemporary Buddhism in Nepal, Chiefly Theravada (Prof. Dr. Heinz Bechert, Dr. Jens-Uwe Hartmann, Univ. of Göttingen)

Newar Buddhism (Prof. Dr. Siegfried Lienhard, Univ. of Stockholm)

Chronicles, Documents and Inscriptions see Literature

Geography

Land Utilization in Gorkha and its Hinterland (Prof. Dr. Willibald Haffner, Dr. Ulrike Müller, Perdita Pohle, Univ. of Giessen)

Linguistics

Bantawa (Prof. Dr. Werner Winter, Univ. of Kiel)

Chamling (Prof. Dr. Karen Ebert, Univ. of Marburg)

Chamling (Prof. Dr. Werner Winter, Univ. of Kiel; Dr. Subhadra Subba, Tribhuvan Univ.)

Tibetan Dialects (Prof. Dr. Roland Bielmeier, Dr. Monika Kretschmar, Univ. of Bonn)

Literature (Sanskrit, Nepali, Newari)

1. Chronicles, Documents and Inscriptions

Copper Plate Inscriptions from West Nepal (Dr. Atul K. Agarwala, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver, Univ. of Kiel; Mahes Raj Pant, Kathmandu)

Documents from Nepal (Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver, Univ. of Kiel; Hemraj Sakya, Patan)

Svayambhunath Chronicles (Prof. Dr. B. Kölver, Univ. of Kiel; Hemraj Sakya, Patan)

Tibetan Documents (Prof. Dr. Dieter Schuh, Univ. of Bonn)

2. Sanskrit Mythology and Yatras (Dr. Axel Michaels, Univ. of Kiel)

Music

Bhaktapur [(Prof. Dr. Robert Günther and) Dr. Gert-Matthias Wegner, Univ. of Cologne]

Newari

Newari-English Dictionary [(Prof. Dr. Dieter Schuh and) Dr. Ulrike Kölver, Univ. of Bonn; Ishwarananda Shrestha Acharya, Kathmandu]

Oral Traditions (see also Anthropology)

Gorkha (Dr. Günther Unbescheid, Univ. of Heidelberg)

Tibetan (Dr. Monika Kretschmar, Univ. of Bonn)

Rituals, Vedic and modern

Prof. Dr. Michael Witzel, Harvard University

Results

On March 12, 13 & 15, 1990 the Research Division, Tribhuvan University in collaboration with the Nepal Research Programme and under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver organized a meeting of Nepalese and German scholars which marked the end of the ten-year activities of the Nepal Research Programme. It was called:

Seminar on German Research on Nepal. Results and Problems. The DFG Nepal Research Programme, 1980 — 1990.

The following papers were read on that occasion:

Prof. Dr. Willibald Haffner, Univ. of Giessen: "Use and Overuse of Soil through Agriculture in Gorkha"

Dr. Ulrike Müller-Böker, Univ. of Giessen: "Studies on the Theme: Adapted Use and Overuse on Natural Resources in the Central Midlands of Nepal (Gorkha)"

Dr. Perdita Pohle, Univ. of Giessen: "Investigations for Landscape Protection in Gorkha"

Prof. Dr. Robert Kostka, Technical University of Graz: "Geodetic-Photogrammetric Work in the Course of Cultural Heritage Studies in Nepal"

Prof. Dr. Adalbert Gail, Univ. of Berlin: "Nepalica Iconographica"

Dr. Raimund O.A. Becker-Ritterspach, Lübeck: "Dhunge Dhara in the Kathmandu Valley: An Outline of their Architectural Development"

Dr. Niels Gutschow, Abtsteinach: "The Need to Build a Temple"

Dr. Gert M. Wegner, Bhaktapur: "Invocations of Nasahdyah"

Dr. Anne de Sales, C.N.R.S., Paris: "Comparison of Two Mythological Bodies of Songs: Persistence of Motifs, Collapse of Structure"

Dr. Monika Kretschmar, Kathmandu: "Folktales and Language of Mustang"

Prof. Dr. Heinz Bechert, Univ. of Göttingen: "Report on a Study of Buddhist Modernism in Nepal"

Dr. Axel Michaels, Univ. of Heidelberg: "Siva under Refuse: The Hidden Mahadeva and Protective Stones in Nepal"

Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver, Univ. of Leipzig: "Some Examples of Syncretism in Nepal"

Prof. Dr. Dieter Schuh, Univ. of Bonn: "Political Structures in South Mustang in the 17th/18th Century"

Most of the papers were published under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Bernhard Kölver in our Nepal Research Centre Publications (B. KÖLVER (ed.): *Aspects of Nepalese Traditions*, Stuttgart 1992, Nepal Research Centre Publications No. 19).

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The wealth and complexities of the many and varied cultural traditions of Nepal are constantly becoming more apparent, and the sheer task of surveying, securing and maintaining their testimonials is of a staggering magnitude. Add to this that in view of rapid changes of society the task is an urgent one — then it becomes apparent that collaboration between both Nepalese and foreign experts and scholars is imperative.

In fulfilling this task, a basic consensus in aims and methods has to be established. Both the Nepal Research Centre and the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project have attempted in various ways to contribute towards this goal. The above list of projects shows numerous instances where the specialized knowledge of both sides has been combined to an effect greater than that which could have been achieved by either side alone. Apart from such instances which perhaps are too specialized for an elaborate treatment in the present context, a few tendencies and fields of cooperation which seem of more general significance and appeal may be pointed out.

1. The biggest and most conspicuous joint venture, the NGMPP, has now come to an end. It was almost entirely financed by the German Research Council. Due to the excellent Nepalese-German cooperation, a considerable number of Nepal's manuscripts and historical documents have been preserved on microfilm: altogether about 181,000 manuscripts with more than 5,300,000 folios. Thanks to a generous subsidy by the German Foreign Office, a spacious microfilm building suitable for housing the huge collection of microfilms was built on the premises of the National Archives. In addition, the German Foreign Office contributed considerably towards furnishing the building with an adequate number of microfilm steel cabinets, two dehumidifiers, three air conditioners and a large generator.

In order to make the vast amount of material microfilmed under the NGMPP more readily accessible to scholars throughout the world, the head of the project, Prof. Dr. Albrecht Wezler, has been negotiating a new cataloguing project. He has obtained the

approval of the German counterpart, the University of Hamburg and its Asia-Africa Institute of the University of Hamburg, while the formal approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is being awaited. The main task of the new Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project will be to produce a complete and accurate descriptive catalogue of the more than 181,000 microfilmed manuscripts.

2. Furthermore, the Nepal Research Centre has continued its cooperation with the Tribhuvan University Central Library in working on the Nepalese National Bibliography. This beneficial undertaking began in 1982 and will last for as long as the agreement between the Tribhuvan University and the German Oriental Society continues in force under its present terms. Recently the bibliography for the years 1990-1993 (*Nepalese National Bibliography 1990-1993*, Kathmandu 1999) was published, independently of the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*. The publication was partly financed by the NRC.

The Nepal Research Centre, further, supports Tribhuvan University in establishing a Post-Graduate Course in Buddhist Studies under the Cultural Department; the present director of the NRC, the Buddhologist Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes, has been teaching two classes a week since February 2000.

3. The German Research Council has funded the project "Prehistoric and Geological Exploration in the Siwalik Foothills in Nepal". This project has been conducted by Dr. Gudrun Corvinus from the University of Erlangen as an interdisciplinary single-person project since 1983. She has been registered with the Research Division of Tribhuvan University and the Geology Department of T.U. and is under the guidance of Prof. M. P. Sharma. Pilot studies on the evolution of the Himalayan paleontological environment in Nepal carried out by her have increased our knowledge of geological history, changes in animal and plant life and changes in the environment during the last thirteen million years. The research has brought to light a large number of fossils of extinct vertebrate animals, including species of elephants, hippopotamuses, antelopes, wild pigs and giant tortoises, which roamed in the tropical jungles in the shadow of the rising Himalayan mountains within the last five million years. Some of the more important fossil animals are on exhibit in the Natural History Museum at Svayambhunath in Kathmandu. The explorations have also yielded a wealth of hitherto unknown prehistoric sites of the earliest Stone Age inhabitants of Nepal. These people lived as hunters and food-gatherers in the foothills of Nepal from a few hundred thousand to a few thousand years ago. The earliest findings are so-called handaxes of people who lived more than a hundred thousand years ago — the earliest known ancestors of Nepal's population. The explorations have provided first insights into the origin of the Nepalese prehistoric populations and their adaptations to their environment. In the years 1993 and 1994 she also conducted fieldwork in her research area of Dang-Deokhuri in order to map the entire area as the basis for a geological map, which she finished in 1994. In 1995 and 1996 she was

involved in the analysis and statistics of her vast prehistoric Stone Age material, and this she finished at the end of 1996. In March 1995 she handed her entire prehistorical finds over to the National Museum in Kathmandu, which now houses a large collection of Stone Age material, the first of its kind in the capital. Her paleontological finds in the form of a valuable collection of mammalian and reptilian fossils have been given partly to the Natural History Museum and partly to the Geological Department of Tribhuvan University. She is now compiling the final report of both aspects of her research, the geological-paleontological data and the prehistorical data. In the last five years Dr. Corvinus's work has consisted mainly in the analysis, interpretation and documentation of the very considerable data collected by her in the previous years.

4. Research in the humanities has been also carried out on a wide-ranging scale between 1997 and 2001. The main fields of interest are cultural anthropology and Buddhist, Tibetan and Indological studies. Some results of these studies have been published in the *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, Vol. XI (1999), and the next volume of the journal (Vol. XII), will contain further ones, is under preparation. Moreover, a monograph of the Indologist Dr. Mark Dyczkowski (*The Cult of the Goddess Kubjikā: A Preliminary Comparative Textual and Anthropological Survey of a Secret Newar Kaula Goddess*) is in the press.

SCHOLARS AND THEIR RESEARCH FIELDS

The following list contains the names of almost all scholars and scientists who have stayed in the Centre and/or have used its facilities for their work from the year 1997 up to 2001. Anyone interested in the results of the work of any particular scholar is invited to contact the NRC; the staff will be pleased to supply the information needed and can also help to facilitate contact with specific researchers as desired.

1. Mieke, Georg, Univ. of Marburg (1997, 1998, 1999), Geography
2. Mieke, Sabine, Univ. of Marburg (1997, 1998, 1999), Geography
3. Schawaller, Wolfgang, Natural Museum, Stuttgart (1997, 1998), Zoology
4. Müller-Böker, Ulrike, Univ. of Zürich (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000), Geography
5. Kollmair, Michael, Univ. of Zürich (1997, 1998, 1999, 2000), Geography
6. Hindman, Edward, Univ. of New York (1997), Meteorology
7. Roy, Eleanor, Univ. of Zürich (1998), Geography
8. MacDonald, Anne, Univ. of Hamburg (1998), Buddhology
9. Haffner, Willibald, Univ. of Giessen (1998, 2000), Geography
10. Roth, Gustav (1998), Indology
11. Hegewald, Julia, Univ. of London (1998), History of Art & Architecture
12. von der Driesch, Angela, Univ. of Munich (1998), Anhaezozoology
13. Manhart, Henriette, Univ. of Munich (1998), Anhaezozoology
14. Vergati, Anne, CNRS, Paris (1998), History, Anthropology
15. Gail, Adalbert, Freie Universität Berlin (1999), Indology
16. Walter, Michael, Lumbini International Research Institute (1999), Tibetology

17. Bräuning, Achim, Univ. of Stuttgart (1999), Botany, Climatology
18. Pohl, Ernst, Univ. of Bonn (1999), Archaeology
19. Kvaloy, Setreng, Univ. of Trondheim (2000), Ecophilosophy
20. Gyonpo Tshering, National Library of Bhutan (2001), Tibetology
21. Garzilli, Enrica, Univ. of Macerata (2001), Indology

Appendix -I

Nepal Research Centre Publications (NRCP)

Edited by Albrecht Wezler

1. N. GUTSCHOW / B. KÖLVER: *Ordered Space Concepts and Functions in a Town of Nepal (Bhaktapur)*. 1975.
2. B. R. SHARMA (ed.): *Puṣpasūtra. Prapāṭhakas 1 and 2. With Commentary*. 1981.
3. *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, Vol. 1 (humanities). 1977.
2. *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, Vols. 2/3 (sciences). 1978/79.
3. M. HAHN (ed.): *Haribhaṭṭa's Jātakamālā*. In preparation.
6. A. MICHAELS: *The Making of a Statue. Lost-wax Casting in Nepal*. 1988.
7. M. R. PANT: *A Nepali Version of the Khaṇḍakhādyaka. Study and Text*. In preparation.
8. *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre*, Vol. 4 (humanities). 1980.
9. D. R. VAJRĀCĀRYA / K. P. MALLA: *The Gopālarājavarṇaśāli*. 1985.
10. B. R. SHARMA (ed.): *Puṣpasūtra. With Vivaraṇa and Bhāṣya of Ajātaśatru and Dīpa of Rāmakṛṣṇa alias Nānābhāṣī Dīkṣita*. Part 2: *Prapāṭhakas 3-7*. 1985.
11. — . — : Part 3: *Prapāṭhakas 8-10*. 1985.
12. G.-M. WEGNER: *The Dhimaybaja of Bhaktapur. Studies in Newar Drumming I*. 1986.
13. — . — : *The Nāykhībājā of the Newar Butchers. Studies in Newar Drumming II*. 1988.
14. N. P. MANANDHAR: *Useful Wild Plants of Nepal*. 1989.
15. B. PFLEIDERER / E. BERGNER: *A Bibliography on Himalayan Ethnography*. Under collaboration of Reinhard Greve. 1990.

16. P. POHLE: *Useful Plants of Manang District. A Contribution to the Ethnobotany of the Nepal-Himalaya*. 1990.
17. P. SØRENSEN: *A Provisional List of Tibetological Research Papers and Articles Published in the People's Republic of China and Tibet*. 1991.
18. F.-K. EHRHARD / A.W. MACDONALD (eds.): *Snowlight of Everest. A History of the Sherpas of Nepal*. 1992.
19. B. KÖLVER: *Aspects of Nepalese Traditions*. 1992.
20. A. MICHAELS (ed.): *A Rāma Temple in 19th-Century Nepal. History and Architecture of the Rāmacandra Temple in Battīspatālī, Kathmandu*. 1995.
21. U. Müller-Böcker: *The Chitawan Tharus in Southern Nepal: An Ethnoecological Approach*. 1999.

Journal of the Nepal Research Centre (JNRC)

Edited by Albrecht Wezler

(Vols. 1-4 are simultaneously volumes within the series NRCP (see above))

Vol. 1 (humanities). 1977.

Vols. 2/3 (sciences). 1978/79.

Vol. 4 (humanities). 1980.

Vols. 5/6. 1981/82. Including the Nepalese National Bibliography for 1981

Vol. 7. 1985. Including the Nepalese National Bibliography for 1982

Vol. 8. 1988. Including the Nepalese National Bibliography for 1983

Vol. 9. 1993. Including the Nepalese National Bibliography for 1984-1986

Vol. 10. 1996. Nepalese National Bibliography for 1987-1989, published independently

Vol. 11. 1999.

Appendix 2

Publications of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project

In cooperation with the National Archives, Kathmandu

Edited by Albrecht Wezler

1. R. GRÜNENDAHL: *A Concordance of H. P. Śāstri's Catalogue of the Durbar Library and the Microfilms of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project. Hara Prasād Śāstri: A Catalogue of Palm-Leaf and Selected Paper Mss. Belonging to the Durbar Library Nepal. Vols. I and II. 1989.*
2. C. BENDALL: *Catalogue of the Buddhist Sanskrit Manuscripts in the University Library, Cambridge. With Introductory Notices and Illustrations of the Palaeography and Chronology of Nepal and Bengal. Cambridge 1883. Reprint: Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland. Supplementband 33. Stuttgart 1992.*

Appendix 3

Nepalica

Edited by Bernhard Kölver and Siegfried Lienhard

Vol.1: *Documents from the Rudravarṇa-Mahāvihāra. Pāṭan.I: Sales and Mortgages.* Edited and translated by Bernhard Kölver and Hemrāj Śākya. 1985.

Vol. 2. *Formen kulturellen Wandels und andere Beiträge zur Erforschung des Himālaya. Colloquium des Schwerpunktes Nepal. Heidelberg, 1.-4. Februar 1984.* Edited by Bernhard Kölver. 1985.

Vol. 3: *Newar Towns and Buildings. An Illustrated Dictionary Newari-English.* By Niels Gutschow, Bernhard Kölver and Ishwaranand Shresthacarya. 1987.

Vol. 4: *Heritage of the Kathmandu Valley. Proceedings of an International Conference in Lübeck, June 1985.* Edited by Niels Gutschow and Axel Michaels. 1987.

